

REMARKS

The present filing is responsive to the Office Action.

Summary of the Response

No claim has been amended. Claims 11 and 21 have been previously canceled. Claims 1-10, 12-20 and 22-27 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application as amended are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-10, 12-13 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nitta (US 5,774,106). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites (for ease of reference to the illustrated embodiment, reference numbers are provided to the claim elements in reference to the components illustrated in Fig. 2 and disclosed in the written disclosure):

A gray scale voltage outputting device (6) for outputting gray scale voltages in response to an image signal (Si) having a plurality of image data,

wherein said device comprises a first selecting means (62), having a plurality of first inputting portions (In1-In32) for receiving a plurality of gray scale voltage groups (G1-G32) each of which has a plurality of gray scale voltages (V1-V2; V3-V4 ... V63-V64), for selecting one of said received plurality of gray scale voltage groups,

and wherein said device comprises a second selecting means (63), coupled to the first selecting means (62), for selecting and outputting (Video Line 5) one or more gray

scale voltages of said plurality of gray scale voltages of said selected gray scale voltage group according to the image data.

Nitta does not disclose a structure corresponding to the recited “second selecting means”, which in the illustrated embodiment of Fig. 2, corresponds to switch 63. In the present action, the Examiner referred to FIG. 22 and col. 12, lines 17+ in Nitta, to assert that the selection circuit 2205 in Nitta corresponds to the recited “second selection means”. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner erred in construing Nitta.

In Nitta, the selection circuit 2204 (i.e., the “first selection means” alleged by the Examiner) selects one level from V1-V8 among the 9-level reference voltages 115 (V0 to V8) to obtain the selected voltage 2206 on the basis of the decoded signal 2202 to output to the voltage divider circuit 2208. Similarly, the selection circuit 2205 (i.e., the “second selection means” alleged by the Examiner) selects one level from 8 levels of voltages from V0-V7 among the 9-level reference voltages 115 on the basis of the decoded signal 2202, to obtain the selected voltage 2207 to output to the voltage divider circuit 2208. Next, the voltage dividing circuit 2208 divides the difference between the two selected voltages 2206 and 2207 into eight to obtain 8 levels of gray scale voltages 2209 in between the two selected voltages 2206 and 2207. The selection circuit 2210 selects one level from the eight levels of gray scale voltages 2209 as a gray scale voltage 130. In this regard, the selection circuit 2210 selects one level from the eight levels of gray scale voltage levels 2209 and directly outputs it.

In contrast, in claim 1, the first selection means (62), selects one of the plurality of gray scale voltage groups (G1-G32) each of which has a plurality of gray scale voltages.

Accordingly, the selection circuit 2204 in Nitta selecting one level from V1-V8 among the 9-

level reference voltages 115 (V0 to V8) would not correspond to the function of the first selection means (62) selecting from one of the plurality of gray scale voltage groups (G1-G32) recited in claim 1.

Further, in Nitta, the selection circuit 2205 is not coupled to the selection circuit 2204. Accordingly, the selection circuit 2205 in Nitta does not correspond to the recited “second selection means”.

Still further, the selection circuit 2205 in Nitta does not select and output one or more gray scale voltages of the gray scale voltage group selected by the selection circuit 2204. Accordingly, the selection circuit 2205 in Nitta does not correspond to the recited second selection means that selects and outputs one or more gray scale voltages of said plurality of gray scale voltages of said selected (by the first selection means) gray scale voltage group according to the image data.

Thus, Nitta does not anticipate claim 1: “A gray scale voltage outputting device for outputting gray scale voltages in response to an image signal having a plurality of image data, wherein said device comprises a first selecting means, having a plurality of first inputting portions for receiving a plurality of gray scale voltage groups each of which has a plurality of gray scale voltages, for selecting one of said received plurality of gray scale voltage groups, and wherein said device comprises a second selecting means, coupled to the first selecting means, for selecting and outputting one or more gray scale voltages of said plurality of gray scale voltages of said selected [by the first selection means] gray scale voltage group according to the image data.”

The Examiner appeared to have referred to various individual circuit components in Nitta, but did not establish the necessary combination of components that corresponds to the

structured defined in claim 1. Consequently, the Examiner has not established prima facie anticipation of claim 1 based on Nitta.

Accordingly, Nitta therefrom does not anticipate claim 1 and all claims dependent. The dependent claims add further limitations that further distinguish from Nitta.

For example, in claims 12 and 23, given the above discussion of the deficiencies of Nitta, Nitta clearly would not disclose: “wherein said first selecting means sequentially outputs said plurality of gray scale voltages of said selected gray scale voltage group to said second selecting means, and wherein said second selecting means selects a first gray scale voltage of said plurality of gray scale voltages and does not select a second gray scale voltage of said plurality of gray scale voltages, said first gray scale voltage corresponding to said bit pattern of said lower order bits and said second gray scale voltage being outputted from said first selecting means after said first gray scale voltage.”

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 103

Claims 14-18 and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nitta (US 5,774,106) in view of IBM TDB (referred in the office action as “Liu & Liu”). Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nitta (US 5,774,106) and IBM TDB in view of Nishio (JP-08234697). Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nitta (US 5,774,106), IBM TDB and Nishio (JP-08234697) in view of Okada (US 5,923,312). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Given the traversal of the base claim 1, these rejections are rendered moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this transmittal and associated documents, or to credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 501288** referencing the attorney docket number of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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